



# *the caring difference*

A PUBLICATION FOR THE KENTUCKY CITIZEN FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARDS PROGRAM

## Conference 2001 Preview: Building Blocks for Children

The CFCRB Annual Conference 2001 is only a few months away, and now is a good time to mark your calendars to attend. The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn – Airport, in Florence, Kentucky, from October 26 to 28.

Each year, the CFCRB conference gives volunteers an opportunity to earn their required annual training hours, hone reviewing skills, and get to know other reviewers from all over the Commonwealth.

This year's conference theme will be "Building Blocks for Children," and conference sessions will be centered around that theme.

Conference activities are slated to begin at 3 p.m. on Friday, October 26, with three cracker-barrel roundtable discussion sessions on:

- Questions from New Volunteers (active two years or less)
- General CFCRB Questions, Issues, and Concerns
- DCBS Questions and Concerns

A reception and volunteer appreciation banquet will be held on Friday evening. A choral group from a local elementary school will provide entertainment, and District Judge Mickey Foellger of Campbell County will be the special guest speaker

for the evening, October 26. Following the banquet, a hospitality room will be open to volunteers from 9 to 11 p.m. This is the perfect opportunity to get to know your colleagues better.

A number of training sessions will be held on Saturday and Sunday. Tentative workshops will include:

- Permanency Goals
- TPR and Beyond
- Guardian Ad Litem presentation
- Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky presentation

The General Membership Meeting will be held from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, and the State Board Meeting will follow at 3:45 p.m. We will wrap up on Sunday with another general session and motivational speaker.

You can expect to see conference registration packets in the mail by early to mid-September. If you do not receive a packet by that time and wish to attend the conference, please contact Central Office staff at 1-800-928-2350 to request a registration packet.

We don't want anyone to miss this great training and motivational opportunity!

### **A Bold, New Look:**

The CFCRB program's brochure and handbook are being updated. See details on page 2.



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# Message from State Chair

By Elizabeth C. Lucas

## NEW ISN'T ALWAYS BETTER – BUT IN THIS CASE, IT IS!

In May, copies of the new CFCRB review form were distributed to local chairs. I bring this to your attention because the new forms should be hitting an office near you very soon – if they haven't already. With that in mind, let's look at what's been added and how these items affect what we do as case reviewers:

- 1) **Number of Social Worker Changes** – You should place in this blank the number of social workers the child has had over the course of his/her tenure in foster care. Granted, for multiple volume cases this process may be a long one. Do the best that you can. I think what we will find is that social workers are changing regularly, and this impacts the children in care. We will be looking closely at these numbers, particularly over time.
- 2) **Date of most recent case plan** – When looking through the file, simply indicate the most recent date of the case plan you locate in the file.
- 3) **Did parents sign the plan?** – Indicate if the parents signed the most recent case plan. This is important because it demonstrates whether or not the parents participated in the case planning conference.
- 4) **Date of next permanency hearing** – Place in this space the date of the next permanency hearing from the case file. Keep in mind that the terminology has changed, so you may see the permanency hearing referred to as a dispositional review hearing. This hearing should take place within 12 months of a child entering care.
- 5) **Reasons for move** – Check the box that most accurately describes the reason why the child was moved. More than one may be selected. If the reason the child was moved is not listed, indicate this in the Recommendations to the Court section of the review form.
- 6) **Is child attending all medical and counseling appointments, and is the current school setting meeting the child's educational needs?** – You will notice that there were three categories and now there are two with respect to the child's needs. Simply indicate whether or not you agree or disagree that the child's needs are being met. If the educational needs are not yet applicable (the child is an infant), then check the box marked NA.
- 7) **Recommendations to the Court** – In this section, you should write any comments or recommendations to the court regarding this case. If you need to ask the case worker a question, you should check the box on the first page that says **DCBS response required**, and you should complete the second page of the CFCRB review form.
- 8) If there are more than 3 children in the case, complete a second page one – marking the 1. 2. and 3. as 4. 5. and 6.
- 9) All old forms with a revision date prior to 3/1/01 should be destroyed after June 30, 2001.

The changes to the review form were made to make our jobs as case reviewers simpler from an administrative, information-gathering perspective. Let's not lose sight of the forest through the trees. Let's make sure we are combing the case files for vital statistics, while at the same time working to achieve permanency and stability for the child.

If you have questions or need additional forms, contact your field coordinator at 1-800-928-2350.

## A bold, new look:

CFCRB brochures and handbooks are being updated to include new, up-to-date information. The new brochure has been designed with an easier-to-read format, and includes several photos, including the one on the first page of this newsletter.



# View from the Bench:

Jerry Crosby, Judge  
Henry, Oldham and Trimble Counties

When asked to submit an article for *the caring difference*, I first asked “why me?” After all, I have only served on the district court bench for seven months and, at the ripe old age of 32, I am one of the youngest judges in the state. I am still “green”, “wet behind the ears”, and perhaps a bit naive. I am still learning my new position and getting to know my constituents. As a result, my “view” is tinted with the rose-colored glasses of hope. Hmmm...maybe this is the reason I was asked to submit an article. Anyway, I am happy to oblige.

From the bench, I cannot offer much of a compliment or criticism towards the foster care program. Simply put, I have not been involved in enough cases to assess the relative quality of care our children are receiving in foster care. While few, my experiences with the foster care program have all been positive. I am truly amazed by the number of considerate individuals who have opened their homes to children in need. To those foster parents and the volunteer programs involved in ensuring that children receive appropriate care, I thank you for making the sacrifice. My experiences have been positive, yet I recognize that there remain problems in many foster homes. The stories of abuse and overcrowded homes do not escape me.

For the six years prior to becoming a district court judge, I worked and volunteered for a local agency as a therapeutic aide for children with emotional disabilities. My experiences involved long-term and in-depth searches for the source of the problems facing our children and developing individualized programs to address the problems. Making these assessments takes time and attentiveness. In almost every case, patience and acutely tuned listening skills are the greatest advantage in the process. I have found that our children need more than a warm body to call “Mom” and “Dad.” Children need someone who is capable and willing to “listen” to the their *words* and *behavior*. Accurate assessments of needs may only be developed after careful consideration of all information. Unfortunately, as a judge I do not have the



**RULING FROM THE BENCH:** Judge Jerry Crosby presides over district court cases in Henry, Oldham and Trimble Counties, and believes Foster Care Review forms provide valuable information to the court.

opportunity to personally conduct a comprehensive, individualized assessment of each child that comes through the court system, whether by neglect, abuse, dependency, or delinquency. Out of necessity, I must rely upon those persons who work intimately with our children and families, including the Cabinet, the foster care programs, and individual volunteers like you, who participate in the Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Board program. Other valuable information is provided by volunteers in the CASA program.

Finally, another vital source of information on which judges rely is the foster parents themselves. Once a child has been through the Court system and placed by the Cabinet, foster parents may provide the most accurate resource of information to the Court for an assessment of a child’s particular needs. Foster parents see the children every day. Without the input of those foster parents who tend to the daily needs of our children, the court system may miss a genuine opportunity to develop real strategies targeted to protect the best interests of our children. I certainly encourage continued input from volunteers, foster parents, and case workers to help provide useful information to judges in the assessment of children’s needs.



## Message from the Manager

*By Patrick Yewell*

In the past several months, we have had a couple of changes in our staff. Mae Philbeck has been promoted to Education Specialist, which we hope will improve and expand our training programs. Michael Broughton, who worked for us on the Adoption Opportunity Project in Laurel and Knox Counties, has become the Eastern Kentucky Field Coordinator. Michael has hit the ground running, and we believe he is an excellent addition to our staff.

We have also added another data entry person, Susie Gambrel, through Kentucky's Court Improvement Grant. Susie also has worked with us on the Adoption Opportunity Project and has over 20 years experience with the court system. Susie will be responsible for general office duties and tracking eastern region cases.

This year we have been working on a funding source with the Cabinet for Families and Children that will allow us to draw down federal funding for the CFCRB program. It is hoped this funding will be in place by the time you read this newsletter. Once we obtain the federal funding, we will be able to move our data personnel from time-limited grants to this stable funding source.

We believe we will also be able to hire several additional field coordinators, along with receiving additional dollars for training and technology. All of these changes are directed to provide greater support to the local boards throughout the state, which will ultimately improve our service to the children we serve.

We are working on a number of other improvements to ensure every child's case is reviewed in a timely fashion. Each field coordinator now has access to our tracking system. This allows them to access the same information we have in central office.

Finally, we are also working on the possibility of electronic notification from the Cabinet for Families and Children. The hope is that we will receive notification of children entering care a lot quicker, thus ensuring that cases will be reviewed in a more timely manner. It is believed we can have this in place within the next six months.

Please feel free to call me anytime if you have questions or are having any problems with your reviews. I can be reached at 1-800-928-2350. As always, thank you for continuing to work for the children of the Commonwealth.



### Introducing our new Q&A Column:

As reviewers, we often have questions. By asking, we learn and become better advocates for children. For this reason, *the caring difference* will feature a new column dedicated to answering reviewers' questions. Here's how it works:

Simply e-mail your question, in writing, to the amazing Dolores Smith at AOC,  
[DoloresSmith@MAIL.AOC.STATE.KY.US](mailto:DoloresSmith@MAIL.AOC.STATE.KY.US)

Or write to Dolores at: Administrative Office of the Courts / CFCRB  
100 Millcreek Park  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Be sure to include your name and a daytime telephone number in case Dolores or another AOC staff member needs to contact you about the question you asked.

# The Role of the Education Specialist

*Submitted by Mae Philbeck, Education Specialist*



After two and a half years as Data Analyst and three plus years as Field Coordinator, I am now tackling the new position of Education Specialist. I will truly miss the regular visits I had with “my boards,” but I am also looking forward to the challenges of this job. I am sure that Mike will take good care of you.

One of my first duties will be working with the field coordinators to speed up the volunteer recruitment process from application to appointment. At the present time, our field coordinators are spread pretty thin, covering from 30 to 40 boards each. I will be assisting them in getting new volunteers trained as soon as volunteer applications are processed. This will mean more and smaller initial training sessions, but it will also mean no long waiting periods before new volunteers can become active members of the local boards. Even with the regular quarterly trainings, many volunteers are currently lost due to the long wait and, in some instances, the long distances to attend the training. We have decided that if they can't come to us, we will go to them.

In my new role, I will also be responsible for staff training. I plan to compile a comprehensive Training Manual for each of the positions in our department. I also feel that it is important for each staff person to be knowledgeable of the other positions, and I plan to have him/her work with each of the different staff for a day.

## Fact Sheet:

- In 1998, 20 out of every 1,000 children in the United States received preventive services.
- That same year, there were 903,000 child victims of maltreatment nationwide.
- More than half (53.5%) suffered neglect.
- Nearly a quarter (22.7%) suffered physical abuse.
- 11.5% were sexually abused.
- The highest victimization rates were for the 0-3 age group.
- Nearly 1,100 children died that year of abuse and neglect.
- Nearly 3 percent of all fatalities were reported to have occurred while the victim was in foster care.

Source: [www.calib.com/nccanch/pubs/factsheets/canstats.htm](http://www.calib.com/nccanch/pubs/factsheets/canstats.htm)

For the first time, the staff will be attending a three-day staff conference. I have enlisted the help of several professionals from Community Based Services, Office of General Counsel, and Personnel to update the staff on the changes that have occurred in the past year. The staff will also be trained on the Interested Party Review during the conference. *(I will be establishing an Interested Party Review Board pilot site in Pulaski County in the very near future.)*

I will be the liaison to the Training Committee, work with the Host Committee, and serve on the Speakers' Bureau for the Public Relations Committee. Furthermore, I will also be available to conduct continuing education sessions at the local and regional level.

I am sure that my duties will change as time goes by, but for now, I think I will be pretty busy!

Since my promotion, I am in the Frankfort office. If I can be of any assistance to you or your board, please call me at 1-800-928-2350.

## Speakers' Bureau Update

Approximately a dozen volunteers from all over the state have signed up to serve as speakers for the new CFCRB Speakers' Bureau. More are welcome. For information, contact Kay Coomes, at 1-502-845-2995 by phone, or e-mail her at [kay.coomes@gte.net](mailto:kay.coomes@gte.net).



# An update on the Process to Record Volunteers' Training Hours

*Submitted by Dolores Smith, Field Office Supervisor*

Beginning July 1, 2001, after every training that is conducted by a field coordinator or the education specialist, the field coordinator or education specialist will mail the sign-in sheet listing all the volunteers who attended the training to the department assistant (Amy). The field coordinator or education specialist will attach a note to the sign-in sheet instructing Amy as to how many hours each volunteer should be credited and how the training should be listed according to the categories Amy is required to use for the volunteer directory/tracking system. These categories are:

- Chair/Vice Chair Training (4 hours)
- Initial Training (8 hours)
- Train the Trainer
- Conference (6 hours)
- Special Regional Training
- Local Trainers
- Chair Approval Training
- Resource-Based Training
- Presenter (3 hours)

- Representing CFCRB
- Executive Committee Meeting
- Committee Meeting
- Regular Board Meeting

For new volunteers, the field coordinator will attach a note to the new volunteers' completed application packets when they are ready to be sent to Amy, instructing Amy that these new volunteers are now ready to be entered into the directory and credited with eight training hours for their initial training.

After the conference, Amy will enter the volunteers' training hours from the conference sign-in sheets from the registration tables.

Therefore, after July 1, 2001, the only trainings that volunteers will need to record on the children's list, will be trainings not provided by staff. This will hopefully cut down on the confusion and duplication that currently exists in the recording of volunteers' training hours and will provide for a more accurate recording system.

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## Fourth Annual Madison County Foster Care Picnic A Success

*Submitted by Darlene G. Snyder,  
Chairperson, Madison Board A*

On Sunday, May 20, 2001, The Berea and Richmond Citizens Foster Care Review Boards jointly sponsored the fourth annual Foster Care Picnic for Madison County foster care children and their foster parents at Boonesboro State Park.

The idea for the picnic was formed in 1996 when it was suggested during a review board meeting that it would be nice to meet the children and the foster parents in a fun environment. Thus began our annual picnic. We have enjoyed meeting our judges, prosecuting attorneys, guardians ad litem, CBS and AOC staff, and many other concerned members of our community. It also has been refreshing to see loving foster parents who are happy to be with these children.

One of my personal favorite things to witness at this year's picnic was three children whose ages range from approximately six to 13, singing the Patsy Cline song, "Crazy." They did a great job! These young ladies were not bashful at all.

If anyone would like to organize an event such as this, you are welcome to call me or any of our board mem-



*Picnic attendees gathered under the shelter to enjoy a puppet show, which was a big hit with the kids.*

bers, and we will gladly give as many helpful hints and ideas as we can. Meeting these children, seeing them smile, run, play, sing and enjoy life can clear your head of some of the horrible, disgusting things that we sometimes have to read about in their files. You will get out of this experience so much more than you ever put into it.



## New CFCRB Review Form

by Lynn Crawford, Training Committee Chair

Ever notice how, just when you reach a certain comfort level with something, someone will come along and change it? Some of us handle change better than others, especially when it comes to reviewing the case files of the children who are in foster care but, chances are, most volunteers will be happy with this change.

In May, board chairs received “new and improved” *CFCRB Findings and Recommendations* forms (case review forms), which are to be used starting July 1. The new form keeps the better features of the previous form while making it easier on us, as reviewers, to gather and follow up on relevant information.

For example, as requested by a number of volunteers, the names of the board, judge, guardian ad litem (GAL), reviewer, and social worker are all contained in the upper portion of the form. The number of times the social worker on the case has changed – something that few would dispute has a negative impact on the children in care – has also been added to the top section of the form.

Another improvement to the review form is the simplification of the language and the addition of the date of the next permanency hearing, something most reviewers like to monitor.

In the section of the form dedicated to the Permanency Plan, you’ll notice a few changes:

- Permanent Substitute Care is now called Planned Permanent Living Arrangement and is abbreviated as PPLA;
- The plan previously called TPR/Adoption is now simply called Adoption (Adp.); and
- Emancipation is the term we now use on the form to indicate that a child will age out of the system and graduate to independent living.

The bottom section of the new review form has space for your recommendations to the court. The second page of the form has a section for questions you have for the case worker and another section for the case worker’s responses.

One thing that cannot change about the review form, though many volunteers have suggested it, is the number of copies we have to make. Keeping that in mind, PLEASE look at the bottom (goldenrod) copy of the review form *before you sign it* to make sure that everything you’ve written is legible. If it is not, please go over the information you’ve written! If the bottom copy is not readable, the appropriate information may not be recorded for the case.

If you have questions about the use of the new *CFCRB Findings and Recommendations* form, please feel free to contact Central Office at 1-800-928-2350.

## Calendar of Events

Conference Committee July 21  
Holiday Inn, Florence 10 a.m.

Initial/Regional Training July 30  
Paducah

Deadline to submit August 7  
newsletter items

Public Relations August 11  
Committee, AOC, 1 p.m.  
Frankfort

Executive August 25  
Committee, AOC, 10 a.m.  
Frankfort

Training August 25  
Committee, AOC, 1:30 p.m.  
Frankfort

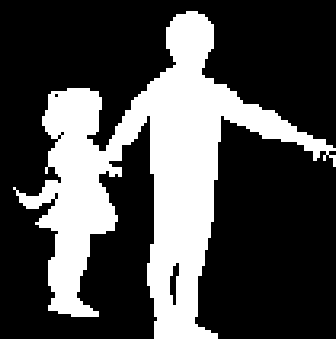
Training October 25  
Committee, 10 a.m.  
Florence (conference)

Executive October 25  
Committee, noon  
Florence (conference)

Public Relations October 26  
Committee noon  
Florence (conference)

Conference 2001 October 26-28  
Florence

Questions? Call Central Office  
staff at 1-800-928-2350.



### **CFCRB Executive Committee**

Elizabeth Lucas, Chair  
Anita Williams, Vice Chair  
George Yarbrow, Region 1  
Charlene Greer, Region 2  
David Watson, Region 3  
Gwenn Reome, Region 4  
Lea Fischbach, Region 4  
Darlene Snyder, Region 5  
Bill Anderson, Region 6  
Starkey Ray, Region 7  
Angie Funk, Region 8  
Doug Burnham, Past Chair

#### *State Committee Chairs:*

Doug Burnham, Nominating Committee  
Lynn Crawford, Conference Committee  
Shelia Dalton, Public Relations Committee  
Linda Roberts, Recognition Committee  
Anita Williams, Conference Committee

### ***the caring difference***

Shelia Dalton, editor

## **the caring difference**

*the caring difference* is a publication of the Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Boards Program. Printed by the Administrative Office of the Courts, it is designed to inform, challenge and provide a collective focus on the needs of children in out-of-home care for citizen foster care reviewers and other advocates and service providers across the Commonwealth. Volunteers are encouraged to submit articles or ideas to the editor, Shelia Dalton, at the Administrative Office of the Courts, Foster Care Review Boards, 100 Millcreek Park, Frankfort, KY 40601. Preparation for the next issue is under way!

### **CFCRB Staff**

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Frankfort, 40601  
1-800-928-2350

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Michael Broughton, Eastern Region Field Coordinator  
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Buffie Daubard, Central Region Field Coordinator  
Bruce Jones, Northern Region Field Coordinator  
John Burgess, Information Management Coordinator  
Amy Smitha, Department Assistant  
Hanna Harvey and Susie Gambrel, Data Entry/Editors  
Chrystal Devine, Administrative Assistant

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### **CITIZEN FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARDS PROGRAM**

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

100 MILLCREEK PARK

FRANKFORT KY 40601